

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:UN, FAO, WFC, NZ

SUBJECT: UN GENERAL COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
(WFC)

REF: STATE 261234

1. ECONOMIC DIVISION CHIEF OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GERALD HENSLEY, HAS TOLD EMBASSY THAT NEW ZEALAND IS ALSO MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE REAL PROGRESS TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL DURING CURRENT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. NEW ZEALAND UN DELEGATION WILL WORK WITH USG TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.

2. NEW ZEALAND PREFERS SIZE OF COUNCIL TO BE ABOUT 25 TO 30, PROVIDED THIS ALLOWS NEW ZEALAND TO HAVE "REASONABLE REPRESENTATION". NEW ZEALAND DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE A PERMANENT MEMBER ON COUNCIL BUT DOES EXPECT A NEW ZEALAND MEMBER TO BE ON THE COUNCIL ONE-THIRD OF THE TIME.

3. HENSLEY'S CONCERN RE SIZE OF COUNCIL APPEARS TO REFLECT NEW ZEALAND'S APPREHENSION THAT CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN CLAIMS TO PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP ON COUNCIL COULD RESULT IN REDUCING ROLE OF NEW ZEALAND IN WORLD FOOD

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COUNCIL POLICY PLANNING. IF A COUNCIL LIMITED TO 30 MEMBERS

WOULD APPEAR TO DOWNGRADE NEW ZEALAND'S ROLE, GNZ WILL
PRESS FOR AN EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE A NEW ZEALAND
MEMBER.
SELDEN

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